

Amendments to the Drawings:

No amendments are made to the Drawings herein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are allowed, while Claims 19-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zittlau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,213,567). Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to reconsider the rejections in view of the above Amendments and the below Remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this amendment is proper as it places the application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the only amendments to the claims add an element which was already present in allowed Claims 1-18. As such, consideration of the amendment would not require further searching and would require only minimal consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of Claims 19-34 despite arguments made by Applicant in the Response to Official Action filed on November 26, 2004. Rather than repeat the previous arguments in their entirety, Applicant refers the Examiner's attention to the previously filed Response, and further clarifies its arguments herein.

All rejected claims require, among other elements, that identifiers be assigned to the distributed electronic control unit at least in part based upon the timing of a signal reaching the control units. The Examiner notes, and Applicant acknowledges, that Claims 19-34, before amending, did not require a central control unit assigning the identifiers, and that therefore the identifiers could be assigned manually by the installer. However, if the identifiers were assigned manually by the installer, the assignment thereof would not be based upon the timing of a signal reaching the control units, as is required by Claims 19-34.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, Claims 19-34 have been amended so as to require a central control unit which transmits the signals upon which the assignment of identifiers is based at least in part. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 19-34 now even more clearly distinguish over the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-34, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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